

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 MCT-01 TRSE-00 SY-05 EB-08 FAA-00  
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P R 221601Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USMISSION USNATO  
USDOCOSOUTH  
USCINCEUR

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BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, PEPR, CY, EG  
SUBJECT: GREEK REACTION TO EGYPTIAN-CYPRIOT DISPUTE

REF: NICOSIA 486

1. THE UNFORTUNATE EVENTS IN CYPRUS OVER THE WEEKEND AND SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS HAVE BEEN FOLLOWED CLOSELY IN GREECE. CYPRIOT PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU WAS IN TOUCH WITH PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS ABOUT THESE EVENTS AND CARAMANLIS HAS SOUGHT TO ATTENUATE THE STRAINED RELATIONS BETWEEN CYPRUS AND EGYPT. MEDIA COVERAGE HAS BEEN INTENSE AND GENERALLY SUPPORTIVE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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THE GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS AND CONDEMNATORY OF PRESIDENT SADAT.

2. YESTERDAY (FEBRUARY 21) PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS SENT A PERSONAL PRIVATE MESSAGE THROUGH THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR IN ATHENS TO PRESIDENT SADAT IN AN EFFORT TO ATTEN-  
UATE THE TENSION IN CYPRIOT-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS WHICH HAS RESULTED FROM THE LARNACA SHOOTOUT. ACCORDING

TO A SOURCE AT THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY, CARAMANLIS  
ESSENTIALLY OFFERED HIS GOOD OFFICES TO ASSIST IN MODERAT-  
ING THE CRISIS BETWEEN CAIRO AND NICOSIA.

3. PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION LEADER PAPANDREOU SENT KYPRIANOU  
A MESSAGE CONGRATULATING HIM FOR THE WAY IN WHICH HE  
HANDLED THE SITUATION. PUBLIC OPINION SEEMS GENERALLY  
TO SUPPORT THE CYPRIOT PRESIDENT. HOWEVER, THERE ARE  
ALSO SOME DETRACTORS WHO ARE SAYING PRIVATELY THAT  
KYPRIANOU'S PERSONAL ACTIONS IN THE AFFAIR DAMAGED  
HIS OWN PRESTIGE AND IMAGE OF STATESMANSHIP AND LET TO THE  
DETERIORATION IN CYPRIOT-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS. THEY ALSO NOTE THAT  
THE TWO TERRORISTS NOW INCARCERATED IN CYPRUS MAKE THE  
GOC A TARGET FOR REPRISALS.

4. THE GREEK MEDIA HAVE ATTRIBUTED RESPONSIBILITY FOR  
THE SHOOTOUT TO THE EGYPTIANS AND CRITICIZED THE GOE FOR  
HAVING "INVADED" CYPRIOT SOIL. THE COMMUNIST PRESS  
CARRIED THIS LINE EVEN FURTHER AND INCLUDED THE US,  
ISRAEL, NATO, AND OTHER IMPERIALIST POWERS AS BEING  
BEHIND THE INCIDENT IN ORDER, IT WAS CLAIMED, TO ISOLATE  
CYPRUS FROM HER FRIENDS AND TO PROMOTE IMPERIALIST INTERESTS  
IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. SOME LEFTIST OPPOSITION  
NEWSPAPERS ALSO WERE CRITICAL OF THE GOG FOR NOT DOING  
MORE TO SUPPORT THE CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT. THE CONSERVA-  
TIVE PRESS GENERALLY CONDEMNED COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES IN  
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CYPRUS AS CONTRIBUTING TO THE UNFORTUNATE TURN OF EVENTS.  
THIS SEGMENT OF THE PRESS ALSO SINGLED OUT CYPRIOT SOCIALIST  
PARTY (EDEK) LEADER LYSSARIDES FOR CRITICISM, ATTACKING HIM  
FOR HIS CLOSE TIES WITH THE EXTREMISTS.

5. COMMENT: IN A DISCUSSION WITH AN EMBOFF, THE WORK-  
ING LEVEL MFA OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR CYPRUS STATED THAT THE  
GOG WAS DISMAYED OVER THESE EVENTS AND CON-  
CERNED THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN CYPRUS AND EGYPT, WHICH  
HAD BEEN CONSIDERED HERE AS ONE OF THE STRONGER SUPPORT-  
ERS OF THE CYPRIOT CAUSE, HAD DETERIORATED SO ABRUPTLY  
THROUGH WHAT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A BAD MISUNDERSTAND-  
ING. ALTHOUGH IT HAS NOT MADE ANY OFFICIAL COMMENT  
OR RELEASED THE TEXT OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT  
SADAT, THE GOG IS NOW SEEKING TO LIMIT THE DAMAGE AND TO GET  
CYPRIOT-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS BACK ON AN EVEN KEEL AS SOON AS  
POSSIBLE.  
MILLS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DISPUTES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
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**Decapton Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Review Markings:**  
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